



Report to:	Council	24 November 2022
Lead Cabinet Member:	Cllr Bridget Smith, Leader of the Council	
Lead Officer:	Liz Watts, Chief Executive	

Oxford-Cambridge Arc - Update

Executive Summary

1. This is the regular update on the work of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.

Recommendations

2. That Council notes the report.

Reasons for Recommendations

3. To ensure that Council is sighted on the work of the Arc as it transitions into the proposed pan-regional partnership.

Details

4. At its Plenary on 28 October the Arc Leadership Group considered a revised proposition to support the creation of a pan-regional proposition. The Plenary was agreed to dissolve the Arc Leadership Group and to establish a pan regional partnership approach for submission and formal agreement by Government (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities - DLUHC).
5. A new Oxford to Cambridge Pan-regional Partnership Board will be established to oversee the work and operations of the partnership and will include:
 - An Independent Chair as selected by the Board;
 - One Chair from each of the member Growth Boards or equivalent (including an additional Co-Chair from the Central Area Growth Board)
 - One Chair representing each of the Programme Sub-Groups (Economy and Environment)
 - One Chair each from the main constituent stakeholder groups: LEPs, Arc Universities Group, England's Economic Heartland
 - Independent Stakeholders as selected by the Board (non-Executive)
 - Senior Government representatives (non-Executive).

6. This Board's prime function will be to oversee the delivery of the partnership's work programme, as agreed by the membership. Detailed terms of reference will be developed for the Board. It is anticipated the Board will meet quarterly, with an annual conference where the activity of the region will be promoted, and all partners will meet as a plenary to consider future work priorities and progress.
7. The Board will select an independent Chair through a locally led formal recruitment process with the support and agreement of the Secretary of State for DLUHC. The current Arc Leadership Group Chair will continue as the Oxford to Cambridge Pan Regional Partnership (OCPRP) Chair effective 31 October 2022 whilst the partnership is in shadow form and until a new Chair has been selected (no later than 31 March 2023).
8. To support programme delivery, two further Sub-Groups will be established (Economy and Environment). These will be comprised of relevant stakeholders and local partner representatives. The Sub-Groups will select their Chair who will also represent the Sub-Group on the OCPRP Board. The Partnership Board will oversee the Communications programme directly as this underpins all activity.
9. A draft outline work programme for the remainder of 2022/23 will include work on international investment, a data hub for the region, environment initiatives building on the Environment Principles and development of a communications plan which will set out the goals and aspirations of the pan regional partnership. A programme for 2023/24 will be developed and agreed by the Board in consultation with the whole partnership and presented to Government for agreement in Spring 2023.
10. Government have indicated funding of up to £500,000 in 2022/23, provided in two tranches. This is obviously subject to any changes announced by the Government on 17 November, and if there are any, these will be reported verbally at the meeting.
11. Local partners will be asked to contribute £4,000, which is a requirement of unlocking the second tranche of funding.
12. Representing South Cambridgeshire District Council, the Leader's position has always been clear that we should seek to secure the benefits from working regionally, and also to ensure that we are in a position to influence decisions. Work in the area of the Environment is key to the Council's continued support, and this is recognised in the draft work programme (above).

Options

13. To note the report.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

14. The pan regional partnership should contribute to two of the Council's priority areas, through growing the local economy and ensuring that the Arc is a Green

Arc and meets the aspirational environmental standards set out in the Environment Principles.

Appendix A: Letter to Secretary of State seeking endorsement for the Pan Regional Partnership

Appendix B: Response from DLUHC confirming interim capacity funding

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